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A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is pleased to present the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Report for the reporting year 2005. In Delaware, TRI reports for 2005 show that on-site releases reported under TRI were lower by 18% when compared to 2004, and they were lower by 29% compared to 1998. One reason for the decrease in reported on-site release amounts is that the Indian River Power Plant had fewer impurities, including chlorine, in the coal it burned in 2005. Fuel quality, as well as amount of energy production, can affect the environment. We encourage both industry and the public to do their share to help preserve the environment through greater energy efficiency and material selection.

In estimating amounts for their 2005 reports, some facilities changed to more accurate methods of estimating amounts. With increasing emphasis on mercury and mercury compounds, DNREC had requested a significant reporter of these compounds, Claymont Steel, to conduct additional tests to verify their release estimates. As a result of the tests, mercury compounds and some other releases were found to be higher than originally estimated. Additional tests have been ordered, and I have also issued an order for Claymont Steel to reduce its mercury emissions by 90% by the end of 2008. DNREC is also working with the steel recycling industry to reduce mercury contained in scrap steel, and with the power industry to reduce mercury compound releases to the air. Other DNREC initiatives to reduce mercury emissions are described in our Air and Waste Management Division site at: http://www.awm.delaware.gov/Info/MercuryInit.htm. In sum, Delaware's 2005 TRI data shows that reporting accuracy is up, while the total long-term trend in TRI on-site releases is down.

While there is positive news within the TRI data, there is also some negative news within the program. Recently, the EPA weakened the TRI program by enacting a rule allowing more facilities to report on the TRI short Form A that does not report any amounts. A copy of our letter to the EPA opposing the proposed rule change, similar to the final rule which was enacted, can be found in Appendix M of the 2004 and 2005 TRI Data Detail Reports at: http://www.serc.delaware.gov/reports.shtml.

We publish two TRI reports annually. A Data Summary Report was developed in response to requests for a more compact, less technical report. This more technical TRI Data Detail Report, the Data Summary Report, and reports for recent years are available at DNREC offices and also through the public information link at http://www.serc.delaware.gov/epcra.shtml. Specific facility data from 1995-2005 are also available at the above web site in an easy-to-use searchable format, and the *Other Sources of Information* section of this report provides details about the many other DNREC and EPA Internet sites devoted to community right-to-know.

DNREC publishes this report to inform citizens about the environment in their communities. Even though TRI does not mandate reductions of toxic chemical releases or issue permits for chemical releases, the public visibility of TRI reporting has motivated companies to significantly reduce their emissions. I urge you to take advantage of the information in this report to learn about the management of chemicals in your community. I also encourage our industrial citizens to continue to reduce releases below today's levels and focus on providing a safer and more healthful environment for our future.

Sincerely,

John A Hughes, Secretary,

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

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